

The Penny News

Journal / Newsletter for the

EDWARD BELLAMY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION & CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Number 6

March 2008



Chicopee Shut Out of 2007 Grant Cycle

The awards announcement originally scheduled for July was delayed until November. At that time the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Mass Development awarded \$17 million dollars for 63 projects statewide. Hampden County recipients were Springfield Museums \$675,000 for the estimated \$7 million renovation of the former Verizon building on Edwards Street for the Museum of Springfield History slated to open in the fall of 2008: the City of Springfield, \$478,000 for the renovation of Springfield Symphony Hall, and Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke, \$414,000 for rehabilitation of the carriage house. The recipients are required by law to provide matching funds.

David Starr, president of The Republican, and a member of the Cultural Council's Advisory Committee, which selected the recipients from a pool of 201 and \$80 million in requests, said the Western Massachusetts delegation of the legislature worked together to insure funding for regional facilities.

"They have demonstrated that our region is not a series of individual places," Starr said. In Chicopee, funding was denied for the city's two museums, the Edward Bellamy National Historic Landmark on Church Street and the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College. The Polish Center is currently restoring the 150 year old Holy Name Church Rectory on South Street. The Edward Bellamy

Memorial Association has for the past 35 years maintained the home of the city's world famous 19th century author. Neither Chicopee organization is in any way funded or subsidized by local government.

Pictured above: The Bellamy Homestead in Winter

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

On Tuesday, January 8, 2008 I received an email from Jay Padgett, Director of The Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund. On October 19, the Massachusetts Legislature approved a supplemental appropriation of \$7 million for the Fund. A subsequent amendment to that appropriation, which passed both the House and Senate on December 28, dedicates \$5.5 million of that \$7 million to cultural organizations with operating budgets under \$5 million. The amendment was signed by the Governor the last week in December.

Mr. Paget indicates that from conversations with various leaders of the State Senate and House of Representatives, it is clear to the Council that the Legislature intends for this supplemental appropriation to be used to extend grants to applications that were not funded in the first round. To that end, he indicates that a meeting in late January will decide on a process for the original pool of applicants. The Advisory Committee's new recommendations will then go to the Board of Mass Development for approval at its February 14 meeting.

We intend to submit a revised grant application once the new process is announced. In his email Mr. Padgett indicated that he is working with MAASH and the Boston Foundation asking them to include a new appropriation for the Cultural Facilities Fund of \$13 million, to match that for the first year. The new guidelines and review process will be available in July, assuming a new appropriation for the fund is included in the state budget for FY09.

In this the beginning of my 36th year with the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association I can still retain a margin of optimism when it comes to government funds. In the past state and local funding has underwritten the restoration of the homestead.

Our current funding (rental income and membership dues) enables the Association to respond to the most critical maintenance needs: those that could threaten public safety, cause damage to collections, or pose significant limits on public access. At present one half of our income is allocated to spiraling insurance and fuel costs. If the current trend continues we will have to give serious consideration to a seasonal schedule at the homestead.

At our annual meeting on June 8th, the members present will receive a comprehensive structural assessment and 2007-2008 financial statement. Please try to join us for this most important meeting.

Stephen R. Jendrysik
President
Edward Bellamy Memorial Association
s.jendrysik@worldnet.att.net

EDWARD BELLAMY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

91-93 Church Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1814

The Bellamy Homestead is a
National Historic Landmark.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Check one:

- Student - \$2 Your name _____
- Family - \$5
- Friend - \$10 Address _____
- Sponsor - \$25
- Benefactor - \$50 City / State _____ Zip _____
- Patron - \$100
- Life - \$1000

Please make your check payable to the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association. THANK YOU!

STEPHEN R. JENDRYSIK
President

MICHAEL BARON
Treasurer

NORMAND GIROUARD
Clerk

Edward Bellamy — Utopian

This is the 120th anniversary year of the publication of Chicopee native Edward Bellamy's best-selling utopian novel *Looking Backward*. Increasingly, immigration is fast becoming the lightning-rod issue of the 2008 presidential election. In the waning years of the era history calls the "Gilded Age", the man from Chicopee proposed a radical new resource distribution formula for the world's wealthiest nation.

In 1888, the American nation was on the verge of becoming the world's most productive economic engine. Fueling the country's emergence was a disturbing dependence on cheap immigrant labor. Bellamy, the obvious product of Anglo-Saxon Puritan stock, was upset by the massive influx of central and southern European immigrants into the industrial cities of the northeast.

Far from being a "nativist," Bellamy as a young man had traveled extensively in Europe. He had served as a traveling companion for his wealthy New York cousins. While visiting the cities of Germany, he observed first hand the urban poverty wrought by the powerful industrial cartels. Now to his chagrin the system was being imported to the United States.

Profit-seeking American entrepreneurs trumpeted throughout Europe the attractions of the new "Promised Land." Industrialists wanted cheap labor, railroads wanted buyers for their land grants, states wanted more population and steamship lines wanted more human cargo for their holds. In fact the ease and cheapness of emigrating greatly accelerated the transoceanic flood.

The alien arrivals were legal immigrants to the world's greatest democracy. Unfortunately, in the 19th century alien status provided sparse constitutional protection for the newcomer. The great majority were preponderantly Catholic, non-Teutonic, illiterate, impoverished Eastern European farmers. They were willing to live and work under truly hideous

conditions for near starvation wages. The Chicopee Falls author saw the exploitation of immigrant labor as the beginning of a new American serfdom.

The leaders of the American business community, who welcomed the flood of cheap manual labor, began to fear that they had embraced a Frankenstein's monster. In the final decade of the 19th century the so-called *Robber Barons* support of unrestricted foreign immigration had resulted in the arrival on our shores of a considerable number of undesirables. It seems their intellectual baggage included such dangerous "isms" as socialism, communism and anarchism. Bellamy's generation increasingly viewed the slums of the nation's largest cities as breeding places for vice, crime and revolution.

When Dr. Edward Aveling and his wife Eleanor – the daughter of Karl Marx – toured the United States as far west as Kansas in 1886, they expressed surprise at the prevalence of what they called "unconscious socialism." The "American people," they decided, "were waiting to hear in their own language what socialism was." They wondered that no major American writer had attempted to

write a novel based on the national economic situation, and forecast that one day, the "Uncle Tom's Cabin of capitalism" would be written.

The implication was clear, Harriet Beecher Stowe's story led to the demise of the evil institution of slavery. The Avelings' were hoping that some day an American writer would inspire a grass roots effort to end the abuses of the free enterprise system. At the time, they were unaware that their hopes were being realized in a modest homestead on a snow covered street in a Connecticut River Valley factory town.

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*Marion and Paul Bellamy
According to Sylvia Bowman, Edward Bellamy embarked on the difficult task of writing a novel in order to provide security for his family.*

Edward Bellamy — Utopian, *continued*

Sylvia E. Bowman in *The Year 2000*, her 1958 critical biography of Edward Bellamy, she captures the moment. “In the middle of a winter night of the year 1886, Edward Bellamy, a slightly built young man of thirty-six, entered the lamp lighted sitting room of his home in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts; and he walked with wiry, self-contained, graceful movements toward the sloping top of his battered old fashioned desk. In his hands he carried a cup of steaming black coffee and a small glass of whisky—for these were the stimulants which were to enable him to force his frail, tubercular, dyspeptic body to work through the night. Sitting down at his desk and alternately sipping the coffee and the whisky, he glanced over the page of copy which lay before him—a page which was to be one of many which after having been painstakingly revised, were to comprise *Looking Backward*, the most widely read and most influential Utopian novel ever to be written by an American.”

Two years later, in January 1888, the novel was published in Boston, Massachusetts. The book would sell over a half-million copies in the United States alone, most within the decade immediately following publication. British editions would approach the quarter million mark, and editions in all the major languages have made it one of the most widely read novels of all time.

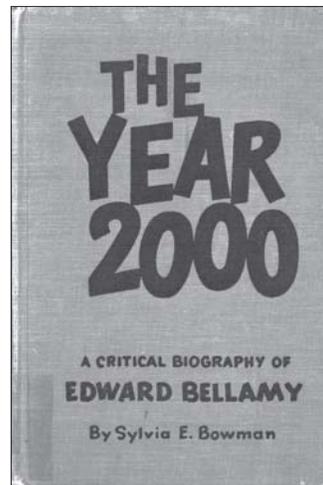
Looking Backward was a literary sensation. Quickly, Bellamy’s ideology of “Nationalism” was influencing every level of American politics. The foundation of Nationalism (Bellamy preferred this label to other terms for social reorganization such as “socialism” or “communism”) was

the belief that the nation itself, not profit mongering corporations, should wield complete control of industrial power and distribution of wealth. The Nationalistic ideal was the fuel for “Bellamy Clubs,” which were formed in the United States and abroad in the 1890s to put the novel’s ideals into practice.

In 1935, Columbia University asked three distinguished men to prepare independent lists of the twenty-five most influential books since 1885. The judges were philosopher John Dewey, historian Charles Beard, and the editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, Edward Weeks. On each of the lists *Looking Backward* ranked among the top two books.

At the top of each man’s list was Karl Marx’s *Das Kapital*.

—Stephen R. Jendrysik



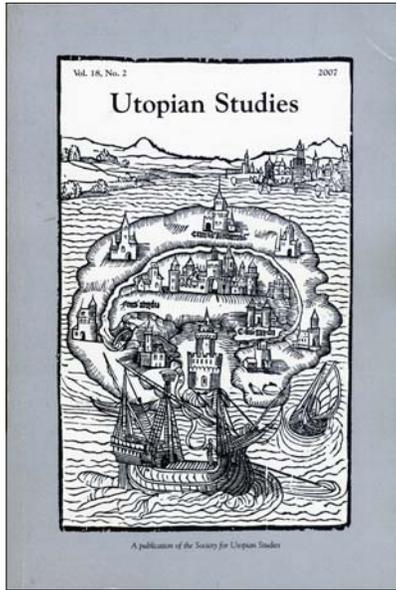
Left: The cover of Sylvia Bowman’s *The Year 2000*. The book was published 50 years ago in 1958.

“When *Looking Backward* was written, American life was especially full of . . . stresses. While there was lack of definiteness in public policy, the special influences of private interests were strong in government. The panic of 1873 had brought widespread hardship and unemployment. Everywhere there were strikes, with disappointment and discontent on the part of much of the population, alongside of hope, ambition, prosperity, pride of workmanship. There was also a large degree of satisfying results of thrift, competence, and hard work, and a sense of success on the part of workers and others who were fortunately placed. Immigrants from Europe poured in at an average rate of more than half a million a year for thirty years from 1880 to 1910, adding about eighty per cent as many persons as the entire population of 1850, and making natural social readjustment more difficult.”

Arthur E. Morgan
Edward Bellamy; Columbia University Press, 1944

The Literary Response to Looking Backward

The Journal of the Society of Utopian Studies in the Fall 2007 edition of its publication *Utopian Studies*, features an article by Justin Nordstrom an Assistant Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University – Hazleton. Dr. Nordstrom’s paper deals with the national and international literary response to Edward Bellamy’s 19th century best seller *Looking Backward’s* Utopian Sequels: “Fictional Dialogues” in Gilded –Age America reports that many Gilded-Age commentators chose to voice their support or rejection of Bellamy’s utopianism in the form of sequels that reused the novel’s settings or characters even as they extended or condemned the message of the book.



Nordstrom writes that: “These works (utopian texts written in the 1890s that explicitly reuse Bellamy’s characters and settings) generally fall into one of three categories: utopias which support and extend Bellamy’s message; dystopias which argue that *Looking Backward* presents a dangerous, even ruinous path; and ambivalent novels which present a utopian alternative to Bellamy’s twenty-first century Boston, while this criticizing laissez-faire capitalism.”

The writer reports that Toby Widdicombe’s bibliography of Bellamy criticism lists 156 “Sequels and Ripostes” to *Looking Backward*. Nordstrom summarizes by saying that “Bellamy’s influence, either slight or significant, is found in almost all of the Utopia’s published in America or abroad between 1889 and 1900.”

Cover - *Utopian Studies Magazine*

Dr. Annette Magid Attends International Utopian Conference

The Utopian Studies Society is an interdisciplinary society that aims to co-ordinate and encourage the diverse work currently taking place on the subject of utopianism. Its members include people researching literature, philosophy, sociology, history, architecture, politics and anthropology. The society was established in 1988 by a group of British scholars, following an international conference on utopianism in New Lanark. The organization was re-launched, following the “Millennium of Utopias” conference at the University of East Anglia in June 1999. In July the Utopian Society’s 8th International conference took place at the University of Plymouth, in Devon, England.

At the conference, Dr. Annette Magid presented her paper titled: “Notes on the Future: Invisionment of Dilemmas Within Society as Recorded in Edward Bellamy’s Stories and Personal Notebooks.” In the fall, her work will be published in *Spaces of Utopia* in Porto, Portugal.

Dr. Magid visited Harvard University and the Bellamy Homestead gathering material for the paper. While doing her local research, she was assisted by Ms. Alison Kobierski. Currently, Dr. Magid is a Professor of English at Erie Community College in Orchard Park, New York.

The international organization has no formal membership or subscription. Anyone who would like to be added to their e-mailing list should send your details to the USS Secretary, Lorna Davidson at iorna.davidson@newlanark.org.



Annette and Hillel Magid at the Bellamy Homestead.

Phyllis Jones Twitchell Donates Signed Bellamy Books

Elsie Parsons Jones was a close friend of Emma and Marion Bellamy Earnshaw. She worked closely with Edward Bellamy's wife and daughter in the Springfield Chapter of the Edward Bellamy Society. In the 1950s the society was active in local social justice issues.

Her daughter Phyllis recalls frequent visits to the Bellamy residence on Avon Place in Springfield. Phyllis was a contemporary of Edward Bellamy's grandson's David and Bellamy Earnshaw. She recalls their grandmother Emma "Gussie" Bellamy as a wonderful "Little Old Lady."



This past year, Mrs. Phyllis Jones Twitchell of Newburyport, Massachusetts donated four signed books to the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association. Included in the special gift were the following : A copy of the 1934 edition of *Equality* signed by Emma Bellamy. *The Philosophy of Edward Bellamy* edited in 1945 by Arthur Morgan and signed by Emma Bellamy. A 1974 Amsco paperback copy of *Looking Backward* signed by Marion Bellamy Earnshaw and *Edward Bellamy* a copy of the biography written in 1944 by Arthur Morgan and signed by Emma Bellamy.

Left: Phyllis Jones Twitchell

Authors Visit Bellamy Homestead

In January 2007, Doralice and Joseph Myers while in the United States visited the Edward Bellamy Homestead. His book *Edward Bellamy Writes Again* was published in the United States in 1997. Mr. Myers for many years has worked to promote greater understanding of the teachings of Eastern Religions, reincarnation and the relationship that these teachings have with Christianity. He has written seven one-hour documentaries that have been broadcast by National Public Radio. Mr. and Mrs. Myers currently reside in Brazil.

They were accompanied on their trip to Massachusetts by Herman S. Preiser of Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Preiser is a member of the association's advisory board. He is a nationally known marine corrosion engineer who has had a life-long interest in the writings of Edward Bellamy.

Mr. Preiser and Dr. Toby Widdicombe edited the uncollected and unpublished writings of Edward Bellamy. Dr. Widdicombe is a professor of English at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. The book: *Revisiting the Legacy of Edward Bellamy (1850-1898) American Author and Social Reformer* was published in 2002 by the Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston, New York.



Left to right: Joseph Myers , Doralice Myers and Herm Preiser

Wrzesien Grant Funds Successful Intern Program

In 2005, retired Chicopee Businessman Walter Wrzesien awarded the first of three \$5,000 grants to the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association. That year, the funds were used to purchase a new computer technology called Past Perfect. The specially designed museum software provides entry of all documents and artifacts into an easy to navigate program.

Under the direction of Sylvia Knowles and Dorothy Beam the association updated its computer capacity and obtained a museum grade document scanner. The Wrzesien funding helped underwrite the cost of professional archival storage materials. During summer of 2006, Knowles and Beam began the task of cataloguing three representative collections.

The first was the William Santos Fisk Collection. Mr. Santos, an executive at the Fisk Tire Company (Uniroyal), had saved and preserved the history of the Chicopee Plant. His personal files and photograph collection of nearly 500 items proved to good test for the new system. It was followed by the computerizing of the Fonfara Collection of over 700 photographs of Chicopee people. The photographs were taken during the 1940s and 1950s by the Fonfara Studio, which for many years was located on Exchange Street in Chicopee. They next catalogued the Francis C. Lapointe Collection. Mr. Lapointe had donated his personal collection of documents and items from his ten year (1969-1979) career in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Bellamy Association president Stephen R. Jendrysik praised the volunteer efforts of Dorothy and Sylvia in



At the Munich House Restaurant, Ms. Kobierski and Steve Jendrysik are the guests of Bellamy Association benefactor Mr. Walter Wrzesien (left).

launching the cataloging program. He indicated the project was ready to move to the next level. At the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association, the organization's board of directors approved the appointment of Ms. Alison Kobierski of Chicopee to research assistant and cataloguer. The daughter of Nancy and Chester Kobierski, she is currently carrying a double major of Literature and History at Mount Holyoke College.

Initially, the association's plan was to begin the daunting task of computerizing the entire collection. The summer plan included the recruitment of high school interns to work at the

homestead. Four high school honor students needing community service credit agreed to help. Matt Pierog, Danielle Reid, and Jonathan Pierog from Chicopee Comprehensive High School -



Danielle Reid and Matt Pierog stacking storage materials in the homestead attic.



Steven Kobierski (left) and Jonathan Pierog (right) repacking collections.

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EDWARD BELLAMY NATIONAL HOMESTEAD RESTORATION 1981-1983

The successful collaboration of Federal, State and Local governments and the Chicopee Business Community resulted in the \$100,000 restoration of the Edward Bellamy national landmark at 91-93 Church Street in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts.



⇨ (left to right) Chicopee Historical Commission Chairperson Susan Bousquet, Edward Bellamy Association Secretary Rita Thormeyer and Mayor Edward Ziemia. In 1974, the mayor was instrumental in obtaining Community Development Funding to pay off the homestead mortgage.



⤴ (left to right) Marion Bellamy Earnshaw, Monsignor Thomas Devine, Edward Bellamy Association Vice-President Leslie Brodacki and Ann Szetela help burn the homestead mortgage.

⇨ At the Fairfield Mall's Community Fair, Rita Thormeyer and Irene Rouillard promote community awareness at the Bellamy Preservation display.



⤴ (left to right), Project Director Stephen R. Jendrysik, Architect Carol Ann Nelson of the Preservation Partnership Eliot H. Chartrand, President of the Chicopee Savings Bank and Chicopee City Planner Marc Webb. On February 17, 1981, the Massachusetts Historical Commission awarded a \$25,000 Preservation Grant to the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association. Pictured here, President Eliot Chartrand of the Chicopee Savings Bank signs a \$25,000 line of credit allowing the project to go forward.

Below: (l to r) (front row) Mayor Robert Kumor, Bellamy President Samuel Freedman, Ronald Ardizoni of Custom Carpentry and Architect Carol Ann Nelson. (back row) Preservation Fund Drive Chairman Eliot Chartrand, Project Director Stephen Jendrysik and City Planner Marc Webb. On August 6, 1981, a \$52,462 contract with Custom Carpentry of Springfield, Massachusetts. The following work commenced of the restoration effort. ↴



⇨ In 1978, following the establishment of the Church Street Historic District the association launched a fund drive to restore the Bellamy Home. (Fund Raising Brochure)



⇨ Edward Bellamy Memorial Association President Samuel Freedman confers with Chicopee Mayor Robert Kumor prior to contract signing at in August of 1981. The Kumor Administration would allocate \$40,000 for the interior restoration of the landmark.



⤴ In March 1981, the sign on the homestead lawn indicates the project has received federal funding from the United States Department of the Interior.

EDWARD BELLAMY NATIONAL HOMESTEAD RESTORATION 1981-1983



↑ In September of 1981 the restoration work is underway on Church Street.



↑ Victorian Restorations of Wilbraham began removing the six layers of paint on the structure.

⇒
As winter approaches Custom Carpentry begins the installation of the historic cedar shake roof.



Below: (left to right) Jack Biessman and Ron Ardizoni met newly created state fire regulations by immersing every cedar shake in a fire-proofing solution. The process slowed the work but provided additional fire protection for the 140 year old home. ↓



⇐ By the summer of 1982, rehabilitation of the landmark's exterior was completed. Community Development Funds underwrote the cost of interior restoration on the homestead's first floor.



↑ In 1983, the homestead was opened to the public. The cost of maintaining the new museum was underwritten by the rental payments received from two first floor tenants. The Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and the newly established Chicopee Development Corporation.



Edward Bellamy
in 1882

Twenty-five years ago a city-wide effort preserved a community treasure. Today the 163 year-old Edward Bellamy home is in need of extensive repairs. Help us preserve Chicopee's **ONLY NATIONAL LANDMARK**. Join the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association today!

Wrzesien Grant Funds Successful Intern Program, *continued*

and Chicopee High School student Steven Kobierski were our summer interns.

In three months our cataloguer successfully correlated and computerized our entire collection of Edward Bellamy memorabilia. She was able to begin the process with the association's Sylvia Bowman Collection. In 1988, Dr. Bowman, the Bellamy biographer, donated her personal notes, letters, records and her invaluable personal library of nineteenth century utopian and protest literature.

Our high school interns cleaned the homestead's cellar, attic, storage areas and barn. They cleaned our display cases, identified memorabilia, replaced storage containers and revitalized our exhibit spaces.

Ms. Kobierski continued the work during Mount Holyoke's College's winter break. In January, Alison computerized the nine file cabinets of the Mayor Richard Demers Collection and completed her work on the Sylvia Bowman Archives.

The Board of Directors of the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks

to Mr. Walter Wrzesien. His \$15,000 research grant has made the collections at the Bellamy National Homestead accessible to regional and national scholars.



Above: Alison Kobierski working at the Association's new computer.

CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historical Society Meeting at Polish Cultural Center

On Wednesday evening May 16th the regular monthly meeting of the Chicopee Historical Society took place at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning on South Street. Following a brief regular meeting and a tour of the facility, the members were addressed by the Executive Director of the Polish Center Mr. Stanislaw (Stas') Radosz.

The group to date has raised nearly \$400,000 of the \$800,000 needed to convert the old Holy Name Church Rectory into a three-story cultural center that will focus on the contributions of ordinary Polish Americans to the fabric of the region. It is the mission of the Polish Center of Learning and Discovery at the Elms College to tell their story- to compose a tangible image of the Polish people, an image made of historical materials preserved to inspire future generations while providing a research facility for scholars.



Dr. Radosz told the membership that the "Polish Community in the United States has dramatically changed as it enters a new phase. As it goes forward, it is absolutely vital to document its past. Ours is a unique endeavor for the country as we attempt to address a need to preserve our story by safeguarding objects that represent the history of the material culture of our people."

The organization's dedicated volunteers earnestly believe that a properly financed and skillfully designed Polish museum and research center will benefit society, both academically, as well as spiritually.

Stas Radosz speaks to the membership in the center's front parlor.

MOLLY

STEPHEN R. JENDRYSIK – THE REPUBLICAN – 2-6-08

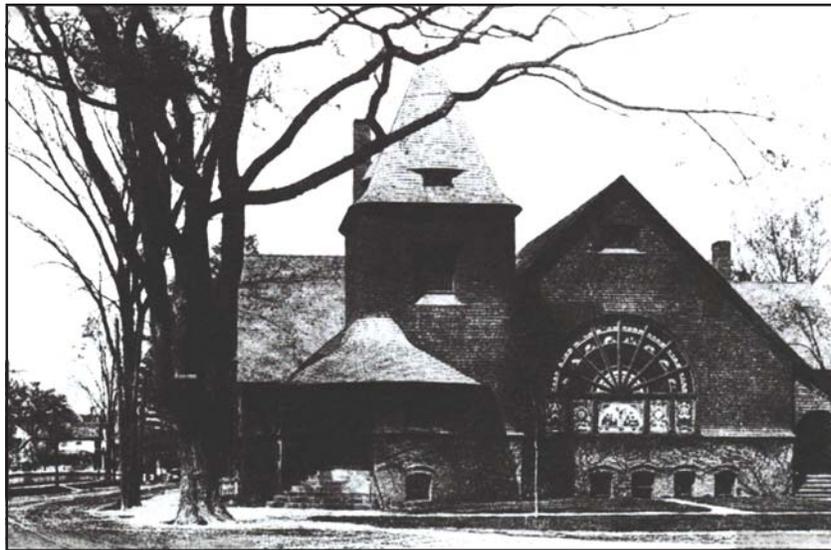
On January 9th the front page of the Springfield Republican reported that Dr. Joseph Plaud had abandoned his plans to rent and help rehabilitate the old Market Square Library. As I read the story, I recalled one of my last conversations with Molly Hosman. Molly died in Rochester, New York on Tuesday, September 11, 2007. After suffering a stroke in the summer of 2003, she had moved to the Rochester area to be near her daughter.

Molly was adamant that it was the city's responsibility to restore the old library. She scoffed at the notion that the long neglected structure would appeal to any developer. Molly "Rose" Hosman always wanted the best for her old home town. When my wife told me that it was Molly on the phone, I must confess I braced myself and picked up the receiver. Her opening line was "Steve, we have got to do something about this."

I met Molly and Dan Hosman thirty-five years ago in City Planner Les Brodacki's office in the Chicopee City Hall. I was the Development Coordinator for the newly established Edward Bellamy Memorial Association. She brushed right past me into the planner's office. A woman on a mission, she wanted to know what the city was going to do to prevent the demolition of the Unitarian Church located at the corner of Fairview Avenue and Grape Street. The striking building with its famous Tiffany stained glass windows had been purchased by two local businessmen who were planning to replace the structure with a dairy store. Mr. Brodacki assured us that he would do his best to block the planned destruction of the local landmark.

The Unitarian Society of Springfield had contacted local officials and the Elms College indicating their plans to sell the building. The cash-strapped college and the city were unresponsive. Once the story became headline news, the purchasers offered to sell the property albeit with a reasonable

profit on the transaction. Mr. Brodacki did his best to attract a new buyer who would save the property. Alas, the building was destroyed and the precious stain glass windows ended up in an Arizona Restaurant. The only positive result of the whole episode was the city's refusal to approve a zone change at the site. Molly had led the battle to block the construction of the convenience store. From that day forth she was in the preservation fight.



Above: Chicopee Massachusetts Unitarian Church

For the next thirty years, Chicopee would have an elegant advocate for the community's rich heritage. During those years, Molly was a member of the Chicopee Historical Commission, Chicopee Cultural Council, Edward Bellamy Memorial Association and the Chicopee Historical Society.

In 1978, Molly and I were members of the commission that successfully received

state and federal recognition for the Church Street Historic District in Chicopee Falls. In the 1960s, Dr. and Mrs. Hosman had restored the old Hamel estate on Chapin Street. As a member of the Chicopee Historical Commission, Molly's unabashed mission was to save and protect the historic old Springfield Street neighborhood.

Bob Kumor was elected mayor in 1979. The following year I was appointed to the Chicopee Historical Commission. In the 1980s, the commission was led by Attorney Francis Shea along with our unofficial vice-chairman Molly "Rose" Hosman. Frances Corridan Gallagher was our secretary. Board members included restoration contractor Peter J. Derosier, Dennis Picard from Old Storowton Village and preservation activist Michael V. Korzeniowski. We were a formidable group.

In September of 1981, Sharon McConnell introduced the first edition of "*Chickuppy*" magazine. The Edward Bellamy-

continued next page

Molly, *continued*

Memorial Association received a federal grant and began the \$100,000 restoration of the city’s national historic landmark on Church Street. Joseph Partyka announced plans to rehabilitate the old Ames Factory complex on Springfield Street. The Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and the Chicopee Development Corporation established offices in the restored Bellamy Homestead. The Chicopee Cultural Council, the Chicopee Historical Commission and the Chicopee Historical Society held their monthly meeting at the Church street site.

Astonishingly, for over twenty years Molly Hosman was actively involved in all four of these civic organizations. First, Molly and Dan were major contributors to the era’s numerous preservation fund drives. Once Molly became convinced that the project was worthwhile, she passionately pursued it converting the nay-sayers along the way. She was our inspirational leader during the nearly four year struggle to establish the Springfield Street Historic District. In 1989, the commission received official federal and state approval. Michele Plourde Barker, the author of the district proposal commented at the time “that we had just about given up- pretty much all of us except for Molly.”

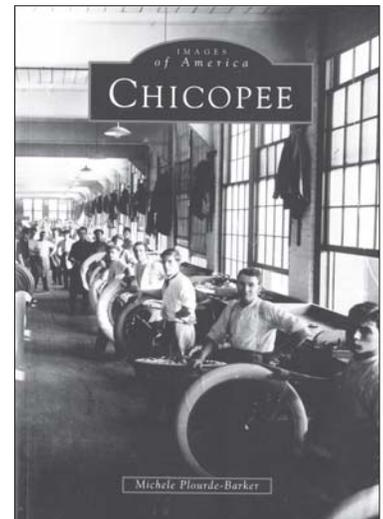
During the next ten years she was part of every cause, every project, every event and every party. She inspired support for a number of very specific undertakings and therein lies Molly’s wonderful legacy.

During the City’s 1990 Bicentennial Celebration, she chaired the historical society committee which awarded twenty-two commemorative plaques to buildings city-wide in recognition of their historic and architectural significance. In 1986, work began

on the restoration of the Spaulding Chapel at the Fairview Cemetery. The chapel located on a knoll in the old city cemetery was built in 1910. Following the bicentennial celebration, Chicopee Historical Society President Michael Baron indicated the restoration project was the organization’s top priority. Molly Hosman was selected to lead the effort. By 1994, the chapel had been fully restored and the gateway arch at the cemetery’s main entrance had been reconstructed. In 1996, following the death of her husband, in his memory, the family donated a new stained glass window completing the chapel project.

That same year, reluctantly Molly accepted the presidency of the historical society. During her four years at the helm, she obtained funding for the erection of historic banners in the city’s two historic districts and helped underwrite the publication costs for a new history of the city. The book, the first new local history in fifty years was written by Michele Plourde-Barker.

Molly “Rose” Hosman, was the number one bookseller. Before the first printing sold out, she personally donated a copy of *Chicopee* to each of the city’s schools.



⇒ Cover of first new city history in 50 years



↑ Author: Michele Plourde Barker (left) and her parents Mrs. & Mr. Joseph Plourde



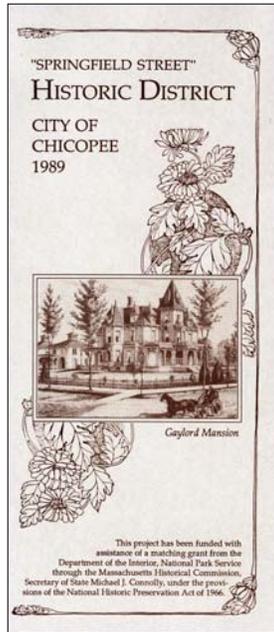
↑ Molly Hosman sells *Images of America Chicopee* to Dolores Krupczak

THE MOLLY DECADE - CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1989-1999



↑ Bellamy Homestead (foyer) – Memorial Plaque in recognition of Mrs. Hosman's contributions to the Chicopee Historical Society and the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association. Dan and Molly Hosman donated the historic 1859 McKinney & Smith Map of Chicopee to the Edward Bellamy Association in 1988.

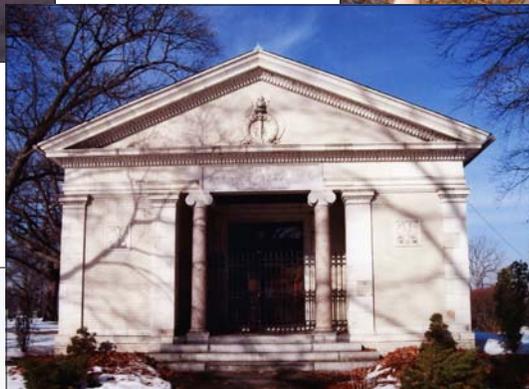
Springfield Street Historic District Commemorative Brochure - In 1989, the Chicopee Historical Commission won state and federal recognition for the Springfield Street Historic District. ↓



↑ Historical Society Activists - Molly's board of directors, historical society leaders in the busy 1990s. (left-to right) Dick Haslam, Lillian Carmel, Anita Lukas and Al Roy



↑ Michael J. Lynch House - The Prairie /American Foursquare home of Louise and Edward Osetek at 69 Stearns Terrace was built in 1916. It is the only structure in the Springfield Street Historic District inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright.



↑ Spaulding Chapel - The building in the Fairview Cemetery was donated to the city in 1910. The eight year effort to restore the chapel was spearheaded by the Chicopee Historical Society working.



↑ Springfield Street Historic Banners Presentation Springfield Street Historic District Banner. Chicopee Historical Society President Molly Hosman (left) presents a commemorative plaque to William Sebor (center), the artist who designed the banners for the Church Street and Springfield Street Historic Districts. Stephen R. Jendrysik, President of the Edward Bellamy Memorial (right) adds his congratulations.



↔ Fairview Cemetery Gateway Arch The gateway at the Fairview Cemetery was a donation of the family of George Stearns. The arch was designed by Melzar H. Mosman of Chicopee and built by Muir Brothers of Somers, Connecticut in the autumn of 1895. 100 years later the structure was fully restored.

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The Chicopee Historical Society awarded commemorative plaques to twenty-two buildings city-wide for their historical and architectural significance. The popular program was a centennial project celebrating the city's 100th birthday in 1990. Seven of the honorees are pictured here.



Roxanne Ferry House at 65 Cabot Street was built in 1835. ↓



↑ Elias Gates House at 333 Chicopee Street was built in 1845.

↑ F.G. Southworth House at 44 Pearl Street was built in 1847.



⇒ Charles F. Howard House at 43 Chapin Street was built in 1869.



⇐ Leonard C. Hill House at 40 Grant Street was built in 1878.



⇐ Charles E. Byrd House at 29 Arlington Street was built in 1895.



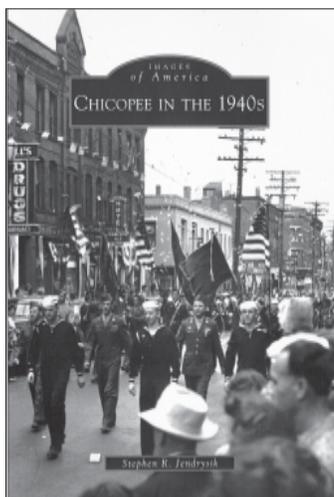
⇐ Rufus Whittier House at 10-12 Union Street was built in 1850.



Chicopee in the 1940s

Steve Jendrysik's third book titled *Chicopee in the 1940s* is in bookstores throughout the region. The book published by the Arcadia Publishing Company of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, features 220 images of city of Chicopee during that turbulent decade. The decision to embark on the project was positively influenced by the family of the late Peter Bardon. To a considerable degree, the availability of Bardon's classic photographic images of the city led to the creation of the book.

Mr. Jendrysik is currently collecting images for his fourth local history book. The book will deal with a small community's relationship with the giant military installation within it borders, the



development of community's a new middle class, industrial prosperity and the shadow of the Cold War. The book titled *Chicopee in the 1950s* is scheduled for publication in November of 2009.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

I am happy to report that that our 2007 programs were interesting, well-presented and well received by our membership. In September, our guest speaker was Dr. Joseph Plaud who discussed his outstanding collection of Roosevelt Memorabilia. Al's Famous Dinner in Willimansett was the subject at the October meeting. Mike Baron, told us the history of the eatery and to our delight the owners added their family stories. At the November meeting I spoke about the distinguished career of Chicopee's George Dexter Robinson highlighting his famous defense of Lizzie Borden. In December at the Cavalier Restaurant our Christmas Party was a rousing success brightened with carols and gifts and surprise story from none other than Emma Bellamy.

At our February meeting Steve Jendrysik kicked off the new year with a discussion of his upcoming new book *Chicopee in the 1950s*. At the March meeting Ms. Jacqueline Lynch will present a special program on the lives of Chicopee's mill girls. Chicopee's connection to sculptor Daniel Chester French will be explored at our April meeting. The May meeting will take place at the brand new Chicopee Comprehensive High School on Montgomery Street. Wednesday, June 18th is the date set for the annual meeting. The election of new officers will be followed by a social hour and another visit from Emma Bellamy.

So you see, we are thriving nicely adding 29 new members, our finances are healthy we've been gifted a sizable sum from the estate of Lillian Carmel. Of course at \$5.00, our dues are a bargain.

Lucilia P. Cauley
President
Chicopee Historical Society



CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

91-93 Church Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1814

Please join us!

Your name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Check one: () Student - \$2 () Individual - \$5 () Family - \$15
() Single Patron - \$20 () Family Patron - \$30 () Life Membership - \$100

Please make checks payable to the Chicopee Historical Society. Thank you!

LUCILIA CAULEY, President
DOROTHY BEAM, Vice-president
MATTHEW PIEROG, Secretary
ANN BEEBE, Treasurer

Directors
MICHAEL BARON
ANN CZEPIEL
STEPHEN R. JENDRYSIK
BRENDA MAGGI
CARL STOY



THE BELLAMY HOMESTEAD
Home of THE PENNY NEWS
91-93 Church Street
Chicopee, MA 01020-1814



THE EDWARD BELLAMY
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

35TH ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING

will be held at

The Bellamy House
Sunday, June 8, 2008

2:00 pm

Mark your calendars now!

CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Spring 2008 Schedule



MARCH 19 – THE LIVES OF THE MILL GIRLS OF CHICOPEE
– Jacqueline Lynch

APRIL 16 – EXPLORING CHICOPEE'S CONNECTION TO
SCULTOR DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH

MAY 21 – THE NEW CHICOPEE COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL
** Meeting will be held at the school on Montgomery St.*

JUNE 18 – ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
– Election of Officers & Social

**Meetings are 3rd Wednesdays, 7 PM at the Bellamy House,
93 Church St. unless otherwise noted.*